

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

UNCLAS STATE 184969

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 184969 ACTION ALL NATO CAPITALS BERN
DUBLIN EC BRUSSELS GENEVA HELSINKI MADRID MOSCOW
NICOSIA NATO STOCKHOLM USUN NEW YORK VIENNA 22 AUGUST.

QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR CY

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - CYPRUS

FOLLOWING ARE PERTINENT EXCERPTS OF PRESS BRIEFING BY
DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ROBERT ANDERSON ON CYPRUS SITUATION
AUGUST 22:

QUOTE:

Q: WHERE DO WE STAND NOW ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO
GREECE AND TURKEY? HAS THERE BEEN ANY INTERRUPTION OR
DELAY IN OUR DELIVERIES?

A: JERRY FRIEDHEIM, INCIDENTALLY, ADDRESSED HIMSELF TO
BOTH OF THOSE QUESTIONS THIS MORNING, AND THERE HAVE BEEN
NO -- AS THE SECRETARY HAS SAID IN THE PAST, I HAVE SAID,
AND AMBASSADOR MCCLOSKEY HAS SAID -- THERE HAS BEEN NO
CUT-OFF OF AID TO EITHER. ON THE QUESTION OF ANY POSSIBLE
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DELAYS, I REFER YOU TO WHAT FRIEDHEIM SAID THIS
MORNING.

Q: WELL, THAT WAS THE BASIS OF MY QUESTION, BECAUSE

THEY SAID THERE WERE SOME DELAYS. NOW, IN EFFECT, A DELAY IS A CUT-OFF, IS IT NOT -- IF IT KEEPS ARMS FROM A RECEIVING PARTY AT A POINT WHEN THESE ARMS ARE REQUIRED?

A: I JUST DON'T WANT TO COMMENT ON THIS. I WAS ASKED THIS TWO DAYS AGO, ABOUT CUT-OFF, OR DELAYS. AND SOMEONE ASKED ME THIS THE OTHER DAY. I JUST DON'T WANT TO GET INTO IT, AND I JUST LEAVE IT WHERE FRIEDHEIM PUT IT. AND IF YOU WANT TO ASK HIM TO DEFINE THIS SUBJECT, THESE PARTICULAR PHRASES, YOU ARE AT LIBERTY TO DO SO.

Q: BEFORE WE GET OFF THE CYPRUS THING COMPLETELY, I JUST WOULD LIKE TO ASK THIS. HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE CURRENT U.S. DIPLOMACY REGARDING THE CYPRUS QUESTION -- AS ALSO PASSIVE?

A: NO, I DO NOT DESCRIBE THE CURRENT U.S. DIPLOMACY AS PASSIVE. I REFER BACK TO WHAT THE SECRETARY TOLD YOU THE UNITED STATES WAS TRYING TO DO. HE OUTLINED ON MONDAY OUR OBJECTIVES HERE. AND THE SECRETARY CONTINUES TO EXERT ALL EFFORTS POSSIBLE TOWARDS ACCOMPLISHING THE OBJECTIVES THAT HE OUTLINED ON MONDAY.

Q: CAN YOU TELL US WHO HE HAS BEEN DEALING WITH IN THAT?

A: WELL, SINCE WE LAST MET, HE HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH ALL THE PARTIES, WITH THE GREEK GOVERNMENT AND THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT, AND ON CYPRUS ITSELF. HE HAS BEEN IN TOUCH, THROUGH AMBASSADOR BROWN, WITH MR. CLERIDES AND MR. DENKTASH. AND IN THAT CONNECTION, THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS THAT WE HAVE ALL SEEN THAT A MEETING -- I FRANKLY DO NOT KNOW WHETHER IT IS CONFIRMED THAT THERE IS GOING TO BE A MEETING -- BUT THE LAST THING I SAW WAS THAT HOPEFULLY WITHIN 36 HOURS THERE WOULD BE A MEETING. NOW, OBVIOUSLY, IF THIS

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MEETING WOULD TAKE PLACE, WHICH I UNDERSTAND WOULD BE PRIMARILY FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS -- TO TRY AND LOOK INTO THE REFUGEE SITUATION ON CYPRUS -- OBVIOUSLY THE UNITED STATES WOULD WELCOME SUCH A MEETING.

Q: YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT CLERIDES AND DENKTASH?

A: YES.

Q: I WOULD LIKE TO ASK THIS QUESTION -- BECAUSE I DON'T BELIEVE IT HAS BEEN RAISED HERE AT ALL. THERE ARE CONSIDERABLE REPORTS AND SPECULATIONS OVERSEAS THAT THE UNITED STATES PLANNED TO OBTAIN A BASE OUT OF THE

TURKISH HOLDINGS ON CYPRUS. COULD YOU ADDRESS YOUR-
SELF TO THAT?

A: I HAVE SEEN THESE REPORTS. I SAW ONE OUT OF CAIRO.
AND I THINK LE MONDE CARRIED A REPORT, ALSO. ALL I CAN
SAY IS IT IS JUST COMPLETE RUBBISH.

Q: WAS THIS THE SECRETARY'S FIRST CONTACT WITH
DENKTASH, BECAUSE IT HAS NOT BEEN MENTIONED BEFORE?

A: I CANNOT RECALL ON THAT. LET ME SAY JUST ONE
THING HERE IN GENERAL. AS WE GO DOWN THE DIPLOMATIC TRACK
IF YOU WILL, AND TRY TO DO WHAT WE CAN TO SEE THAT A
PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IS OBTAINED ON CYPRUS, WE CANNOT
EVERY DAY GIVE YOU EVERY CONTACT, EVERY PHONE CALL,
EVERY LETTER, EVERY TELEGRAM. BUT WHAT WE WILL DO IS
TRY AND -- WHAT THE SECRETARY TOLD ME TO DO, IS TO TELL
YOU THAT WE WILL TRY AND KEEP YOU INFORMED ON A VERY
CURRENT BASIS OF WHAT HIS EFFORTS ARE. AS FOR TRYING
TO RECALL EVERY INDIVIDUAL AND WHAT TIME HE CALLED, ETC.,
IT IS JUST SORT OF DISSECTING IT A LITTLE TOO MUCH.

Q: HAS THE UNITED STATES HAD ANY DISCUSSIONS WITH THE
GOVERNMENT OF GREECE CONCERNING ITS INTENTIONS ABOUT
THE ACTUAL PHYSICAL WITHDRAWAL OF ITS FORCES FROM NATO?

A: NO.

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Q: DOES IT PLAN TO HAVE ANY?

A: THE GREEK GOVERNMENT HAS NOT APPROACHED US ON THAT
SUBJECT.

Q: ... I AM TALKING ABOUT WHAT ARE WE TRYING TO GET
THE PARTIES TO DO IN ALL OF THIS CONTACTING.

A: WELL, THIS WOULD INDICATE TO ME THAT YOU THINK WE
HAVE GOT SOME PLAN OR IDEA AND SO WE ARE MAKING PHONE

CALLS ALL OVER THE PLACE TRYING TO GET PEOPLE TO BUY
SOME KIND OF U.S. PLAN. SOMETIMES, AS I SAID A FEW
DAYS AGO, THE CALLS ARE NOT ALL ONE WAY. THERE ARE A LOT
OF CALLS THAT COME THE OTHER WAY, THAT COME OVER HERE
FROM EITHER THE FOREIGN SECRETARY OR THE TURKISH GOVERN-
MENT AUTHORITIES, THE GREEK GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES,
CYPRIOT GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES, OR FROM OUR EMBASSIES
IN THOSE PLACES. IT IS JUST A MIXTURE OF COMMUNICATIONS,
WRITTEN AND ORAL. I WOULD THINK NOW THAT THERE WILL BE

MORE WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS THAN THERE WILL BE ORAL,

AS WE GO DOWN THE ROAD HERE.

Q: WOULD YOU SAY THAT THE SECRETARY IS FUNCTIONING EFFECTIVELY AT THIS POINT AS A MEDIATOR IN THIS CRISIS?

A: I WOULD SAY THAT HE IS -- YES, I WOULD. HE IS STILL TRYING TO DO ANYTHING HE CAN TO URGE A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT ON THE ISLAND, AND ANY PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT HAS TO BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE PARTIES ON THE ISLAND, AS WE HAVE SAID SO MANY TIMES BEFORE.

Q: IS HE TRYING TO RESOLVE OPPOSING POSITIONS HERE, IN ALL OF HIS CONTACTS BACK AND FORTH?

A: I DON'T WANT TO CHARACTERIZE IN DETAIL WHAT HE IS TRYING TO DO AT THIS STAGE. I MEAN HE MENTIONED ON MONDAY, AND I REAFFIRMED IT ON TUESDAY, THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN AN INITIATIVE, AND WE SUPPORT THAT INITIATIVE. AND IF, AS WE HOPE, THE UNCLASSIFIED

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CLERIDES-DENKTASH MEETING TAKES PLACE, OBVIOUSLY WE WOULD WELCOME THAT. WE ARE NOT GOING TO TELL THEM HOW THEY OUGHT TO DO THEIR BUSINESS. BUT IF THEY ASK US FOR ANY VIEWS, WE WOULD BE GLAD TO GIVE IT TO THEM.

ZQ: THE SECRETARY LEFT THE UNITED STATES IN A POSTURE, A FEW DAYS AGO, OF WAITING TO HEAR FROM THE OTHER PARTIES IN TERMS OF ANY HELP THAT THE UNITED STATES COULD GIVE, AND THAT IN EFFECT THE UNITED STATES WAS NOT GOING TO INITIATE ANYTHING, BUT RATHER WAIT TO SEE WHAT KIND OF ROLE THE PARTIES WANTED THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO PLAY. HAS THAT MOVED BEYOND THAT STAGE? HAS ANY PARTY INDICATED A WILLINGNESS TO HAVE THE UNITED STATES INVOLVED IN SOME FASHION?

A: I WOULD SAY ONLY THIS AT THIS STAGE, THAT FOLLOWING DEAN BROWN'S ARRIVAL IN NICOSIA, HE HAS BEEN MEETING WITH BOTH MR. CLERIDES AND MG. DENKTASH. AND THERE HAVE BEEN COMMUNICATIONS BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN AMBASSADOR BROWN AND THE SECRETARY, AND IDEAS ARE DEVELOPING. WE HAVE BEEN ASKED FOR SOME SUGGESTIONS, AND THEY HAVE BEEN GIVEN. BUT THERE IS NO PLAN FOR ANY POLITICAL SETTLEMENT THAT WE ARE GETTING INTO. THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM THAT I THINK THE TWO CYPRIOT LEADERS ARE PROBABLY GOING TO FOCUS ON IS ON THE HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS, BECAUSE THAT IS THE MOST URGENT. AND THAT IS WHERE THE STATE OF PLAY STANDS AS OF NOW.

Q: YOU DIDN'T MENTION BRITAIN IN THESE CONTACTS. SINCE IT IS THEIR INITIATIVE WE ARE FOLLOWING, WHEN IS THE O

LAST TIME WE HAD A CONTACT WITH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT
ABOUT HOW USEFUL WE MAY BE?

A: ON THIS, JUST LET ME SAY THERE HAVE BEEN CONTACTS
WITH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, THERE ARE CONTINUING
CONTACTS. I JUST CANNOT GIVE YOU THE HOUR, ETC.

Q: MAY I FOLLOW THAT UP BEFORE YOU GET INTO SOMETHING
ELSE? YOU STARTED OUT ANSWERING A QUESTION AS TO
WHETHER THE SECRETARY WAS PLAYING A MEDIATING ROLE.
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AND THEN YOU WENT ON TO SAY, YES, THAT KISSINGER WAS
TRYING TO DO ANYTHING HE CAN TO BRING ABOUT A
PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. BUT THEN YOU SPOKE OF THE BRITISH
INITIATIVE. NOW, AS THE SECRETARY LEFT THIS THE OTHER
DAY, A MEDIATING ROLE WOULD NOT BE THE ROLE FOR THE
UNITED STATES; THE MEDIATING ROLE WOULD BE THE ROLE
FOR BRITAIN, WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES. AND
THIS MAY BE QUIBBLING, BUT I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHICH IT
IS.

A: ...HE IS NOT THE MEDIATOR AT ALL. HE IS THERE, AS
HE SAID, TO TRY AND BE HELPFUL WHERE HE CAN. AND IT
STILL STANDS, IN ESSENCE, WHERE THE SECRETARY PUT IT ON
MONDAY.

Q: THERE ARE NO NEGOTIATIONS GOING ON NOW. IF HE IS
TALKING TO ALL OF THE SIDES, HE IS IN FREQUENT CONTACT
WITH THEM, AND HE IS MAKING SOME KIND OF AN ATTEMPT
TO RESOLVE SOME OF THE DIFFERENCES, ISN'T HE A MEDIATOR
OF THIS CRISIS AT THIS PARTICULAR MOMENT?

A: ON BACKGROUND IN FOLLOWING UP STEWART'S VERY GOOD
COMMENT, I DON'T WANT TO PUT ANY SPECIFIC LABEL, SUCH
AS THE "MEDIATOR", BECAUSE THAT CAN CAUSE NOTHING BUT
PROBLEMS. END BACKGROUND

Q: WITH REGARD TO WHETHER WE HAVE SAID ANYTHING TO THE
GREEKS ABOUT WITHDRAWAL FROM NATO, THE SECRETARY OF STATE
SAID THE OTHER DAY THAT THE UNITED STATES CANNOT
BE PRESSURED BY THREATS OF WITHDRAWAL FROM NATO. SO
I WOULD PRESUME THAT WE WILL NOT TAKE IT UP WITH THEM --
WE WILL LET THEM TAKE IT UP WITH US.

A: I ASSUME THAT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT, AT SOME POINT,
WILL WISH TO SIT DOWN AND HAVE A DISCUSSION WITH US,
AND AS WE HAVE ALREADY SAID, WE LOOK FORWARD TO A VERY
THOROUGH DISCUSSION OF GREECE'S FUTURE ROLE IN NATO.
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